

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:132

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004

TALKS ON SIACHEN

Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan;Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Governments of India and Pakistan have under consideration a proposal to withdraw troops from Siachen Glacier;
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal and the terms and conditions of such withdrawal;
- (c) whether the security aspect of the area has been fully considered in all its ramifications;
- (d) if so, the safeguards taken/to be taken to avoid untoward incident in future; and
- (e) the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance and security arrangements etc. of Indian Military posts in Siachen Glacier?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): The Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan held talks in New Delhi on 5-6 August, 2004 on Siachen, within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. During the meeting, modalities for disengagement and redeployment of troops were discussed. The two sides agreed to continue with their discussions.

(c) & (d): The Government of India are fully aware of the security implications and all safeguards have been taken to ensure that security of the region is not compromised in any manner.

(e) It would not be in the interest of national security to give these details.